

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 6 has been extensively amended so as to set forth with specificity the clearance S including the location of same and the function of same. This clearance S cannot be said to be anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art. The clearance S is not a machine clearance as shown in the prior art. There is a specific function for the clearance S which is greater than the clearance elsewhere. The prior art does not teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious the subject matter of amended independent claim 6.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicants add new independent claim 13. Independent claim 13 again sets forth with specificity the nature of its clearance S and its location with respect to the bearing block and the support zone. It is respectfully submitted that claim 13 clearly distinguishes over the cited and applied prior art references.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Apln. SN 10/538,541
Amdt. Dated July 25, 2008
Reply to Office Action of June 25, 2008

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Gregory P. LaPointe #28395/
Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No.: 28,395

Telephone: 203-777-6628
Telefax: 203-865-0297

Date: July 25, 2008